

FIRE CHIEF STUDY GUIDE

An examination for the class of **FIRE CHIEF** administered in **LAKE CHARLES** will consist of two parts which will be administered during separate exam sessions. The multiple-choice examination will be administered during the first exam session at **9:30 a.m.** on **MAY 4, 2010**, and a job simulation exercise will be administered during the second exam session beginning at **1:00p.m.** on **MAY 4, 2010**. You must take both parts of the examination in order to receive a grade, although the primary weighting of the total exam results will focus on the multiple-choice examination. A complete description of the subject areas to be evaluated follows:

PART I

MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAMINATION

The multiple-choice examination will consist of approximately 115 questions in the following subject areas:

SUBJECT AREA/KNOWLEDGE	APPROXIMATE % OF EXAM
FIRE ADMINISTRATION Knowledge of the principles of effective fire service administration, including management theory and organizational behavior, planning and research, productivity evaluation, risk management, and establishing a system for internal departmental controls; financial management; and training.	27.8%
PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT/EMPLOYEE RELATIONS Knowledge of accepted practices in personnel management and of the procedures for developing and maintaining an effective employee relations program, including recruitment and selection, performance evaluation, grievance resolution.	15.7%
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT/WRITTEN COMMUNICATION Knowledge of effective information management practices, including establishing policy for and overseeing a system for the preparation, control, and retention of records; and knowledge of the information and gathering process and compilation of data into an effective written format for correspondence, reports, or other formal department communications.	7.8%

SUBJECT AREA/KNOWLEDGE	APPROXIMATE % OF EXAM
PUBLIC RELATIONS/PUBLIC FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION Knowledge of effective public relations practices which foster a positive public image of the department through contact with the media, other agencies, and the public; and knowledge of procedures involved in developing and conducting a fire prevention/public education program to address specific community needs.	7.8%
SUPERVISION Knowledge of the practices and techniques used in effective supervision in order to plan, organize, direct, and evaluate the work of subordinates, to resolve conflicts, and to maintain discipline.	24.3%
FIREGROUND COMMAND/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT Knowledge of pre-fire planning and the procedures necessary to manage operations at the scene of a fire or other emergency, in order to develop and implement an emergency management system; to direct and control emergency operations, including the handling of hazardous materials; to monitor the activities of command staff; to provide a system of emergency medical care; and to establish and implement fireground communications.	16.5%

PART II

JOB SIMULATION EXERCISE

This portion of the examination is a management simulation exercise during which applicants will be required to make an oral presentation which will be video-taped. The oral presentation will address a job-related management problem. Each applicant will be assigned a specific time to report for this portion of the test, at which time written instructions will be provided. All applicants will be afforded an equal amount of preparation and presentation time. Scoring on this portion of the examination will be based on your communications skills, your management ability in deciding how to handle the problem, and your public relations skills in handling a sensitive management issue. In scoring your oral presentation, the following dimensions will be used by a panel of trained raters to evaluate this portion of your examination:

SUBJECT AREA/KNOWLEDGE

NO. 1.- ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Ability to make an effective oral presentation by analyzing relevant data in determining speech content, organizing thoughts for an effective presentation, and using the principles of effective speech communications in making an effective and persuasive delivery.

NO. 2. - CONTENT PROBLEM ANALYSIS

Ability to identify the problem, analyze relevant information while relating data from different sources, and determine appropriate response, using relevant knowledge of fire service management.

NO. 3. - INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS

Ability to be sensitive to the concerns of others and have empathy for their point of view. Ability to work in a politically charged atmosphere with political sensitivity, diplomacy, and tact. An appropriate response will maximize the public relations potential of the situation.

REFERENCE LIST

While the entire list of reference material will be useful to you in your preparation for the upcoming examination, the **majority** of test questions are sourced from those references listed under the Primary List.

PRIMARY REFERENCE MATERIAL

INTERNATIONAL FIRE SERVICE TRAINING ASSOCIATION (IFSTA)/ FIRE PROTECTION PUBLICATIONS (Training Manuals):

Chief Officer, 2nd ed., 2004.

EFFECTIVE SUPERVISORY PRACTICES, International City Management Association (ICMA), 1120 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, 4th ed., 2005.

NOTE: Obtain through LSU Firemen Training Program or IFSTA Fire Protection Publications.

MANAGING FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES, International City Management Association (ICMA), 1140 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, 1st ed., 2002.

NOTE: Available through LSU Firemen Training Program or IFSTA Fire Protection Publications.

MANAGEMENT IN THE FIRE SERVICE, Carter, Harry R., and Rausch, Erwin, NFPA, Quincy Mass., 4th ed., 2008.

ADVANCED SUPERVISORY PRACTICES, International City/County Management Association, 777 N. Capitol Street N.E., Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20002-4201, 1992.

FIRE PROTECTION HANDBOOK, NFPA, 19th ed., 2003.

FIRE COMMAND, Brunacini, Alan V., NFPA, 2nd ed., 2002.

EFFECTIVE PUBLIC RELATIONS, Cutlip, Scott M./Center, Allen M./Broom, Glen M.,
Prentice-Hall, Inc., A Simon & Schuster Company, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458, 8th ed., 2000.

The local civil service board should make this study guide available to all applicants in whatever manner the board deems appropriate.

While there are no provisions requiring this office to provide study guides for any competitive or promotional examinations, such material will be provided as a service to assist applicants in preparing for an examination. The State Examiner's office has no control whatsoever over the local availability of reference material (mentioned in the study guides), nor do we feel constrained to limit examination questions to only that material which is available locally. Examination content, weighting of subject areas, and length of examination, may vary with each administration of an examination to reflect any updated job analysis information. Percentages and numerical estimations are provided as approximations.